GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AND WOMEN
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than half of the women and children in India are suffering from severe malnutrition and chronic undernourishment;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to distribute foodgrains free of cost to women and children suffering from malnutrition etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to wipe-out malnutrition and undernourishment among women and children in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) No, Sir. As per National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-2006), 19.1% children are severely malnourished and 33% women have chronic Energy Deficiency.

(b),(c)&(d) Free food supplements are given to children (6 months to 6 years) and pregnant and lactating women under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Children suffering from severe malnutrition receive double the quantity of supplementary food for 300 days in a year.

Undernourished adolescent girls weighing less than 35 kg receive 6 Kg of wheat/rice per month under the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls implemented in 51 districts. About 12 crore children are receiving mid day meals in schools under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education.

(e) The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and is implementing a number of schemes which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women and children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development);
(ii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) [Department of Elementary Education & Literacy];
(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers (Ministry of Women & Child Development);
(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women & Child Development);
(v) National Rural Health Mission including Iron and Folic Acid and Vitamin A Supplementation programems and Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
(vi) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
(vii) Targetted Public Distribution System (Department of Food & Public Distribution);
(viii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme/Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign/National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).